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Dr. J. Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York
New York 10021-6399

26 November 1987

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you very much for the off-print "Forty Years of Genetic Recombination in Bacteria".

The story of your discovery is very interesting, especially from the methodological point of view with regard to the growth of scientific knowledge.

I find it very relevant to my interest in the problem of experimental error. It sheds light on the negative aspect of this problem, namely that scientists are reluctant to probe a study-area which is known, or rather believed to be prone to error. The rational realization of possible errors thus becomes an obstacle to the progress of science precisely in the same way as the occurrence of error itself. No doubt, it requires courage, integrity and above all imagination to proceed where other people stop.

Enclosed please find the requested paper. I enclose further the Abstract of my Ph.D. thesis, entitled "On the Concept of Experimental Error", and its Table of Contents, so that you will be able to put the case of Hertz's experiment in a wider context.

I should be grateful for any comment you may care to make.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Giora Hon
Giora Hon

Dr. G. Hon
Philosophy Department
Haifa University
Mt. Carmel
Haifa 31999
ISRAEL

physicist
instantaneous
systematic
shift in

Hertz?

microfilm